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MEMORANDUM

To: Committee on K-12 Education Budget
From: Nick Myers, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Date: February 8, 2024
Subject: Bill Brief – House Bill 2521

House Bill 2521 would require the state board of education to authorize individuals who complete an alternative teacher certification program to apply for and obtain an initial teaching license. Any such individual would not be required to complete a professional education pedagogy coursework at an accredited college or university engaged in teacher preparation or hold a valid teaching license in another state that was earned through completion of an alternative teacher certification program.

An individual who applies for an initial teaching license based on completion of an alternative teacher certification program would be required to:

- Submit an official transcript to confirm the award of a bachelor's degree or higher;
- Submit proof of completion of the alternative teacher certification program;
- Submit an application for an initial license with the required licensure fee; and
- Complete all background check requirements.

An individual who obtains an initial teaching license based on completion of an alternative teacher certification program would be authorized to teach the subject area and education level that correspond to the certification received through successful completion of the alternative teacher certification program.

The state board of education would be required to treat any individual who obtained licensure under the bill the same as any other individual who completes a traditional teacher preparation program. Additionally, the state board may require any such individual to participate in a school district teacher mentorship program in the first year of such person's employment by a school district.

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HB 2521 would require the state board of education to adopt rules and regulations to implement and administer the requirements of the bill.

The bill would define “alternative teacher certification program” as a teacher preparation program that:

- Operates in at least five states;
- has been operational for at least 10 years;
- includes subject-area content and pedagogical training that includes instructional delivery, classroom management and organization, assessment, instructional design and professional learning and leadership; and
- requires passage of a subject area examination and a pedagogy examination to successfully complete the program.

If enacted, HB 2521 would take effect on July 1, 2024.